







Roman Numerals originated in ancient Rome. They are a set of symbols that represent numbers as we know them today. It is believed that their usage began sometime between 900 and 800 BC.

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Roman Numerals were developed out of a need to find a common method of counting. Basic ways of counting using just hands and fingers were only useful up to 10, so another way of counting was needed.





The new Roman Numerals were loosely based on using a person's hand. The I was similar to one finger; the represented five fingers; the Х represented two hands.

The early system of Roman Numerals was slightly different than that used today. For example 4 was represented by IIII and 9 was represented by VIIII. Over time, the system was developed more.



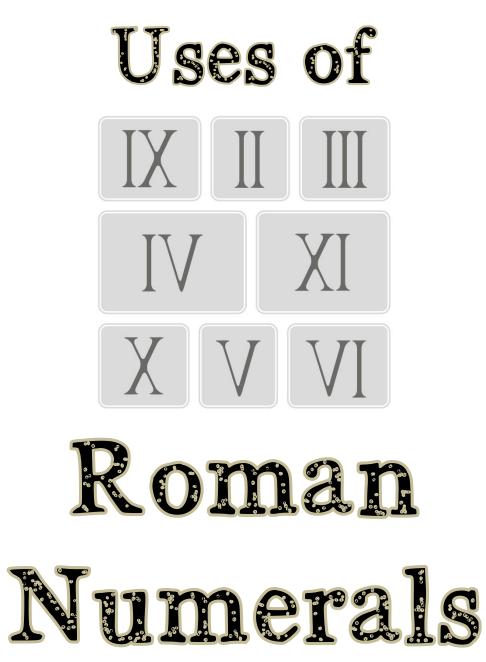
Roman Numerals were used up to the 1500s throughout Europe. People found it easy to add and subtract using Roman Numerals but found that other calculations were more difficult.

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Eventually, towards the end of the 1500s, it became more common to use Arabic numbers for most calculations. However, Roman Numerals are still used today in various ways.









Lots of clocks use Roman numerals for their figures on the clock face.

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Some analogue wrist watches use Roman Numerals for their figures.

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Clocks on many public buildings use Roman Numerals for their figures.

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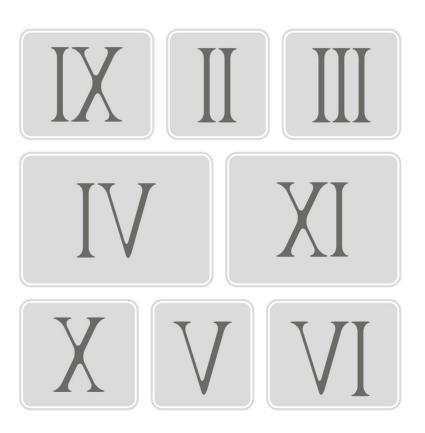
Roman Numerals are sometimes used as part of a sundial.

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Roman Numerals are sometimes used to number volumes of books.

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Roman Numerals are sometimes used for inscriptions on stones.



Roman Numerals are sometimes used on presentation medals.

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Sometimes, years are written using Roman Numerals.

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Other uses for Roman Numerals in modern times include: names of monarchs, popes, ships and sporting events like the Olympics; they appear in movie credits and titles; they sometimes appear on building cornerstones; they are used in astronomy to designate moons; they are used in chemistry to denote groups of the Periodic Table; they are used in notation symbols for Music Theory.

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https://www.teacherspayteachers. com/Store/Hello-Literacy

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Information sourced from:

- https://www.livescience.com/32052-roman-numerals.html
- D'Ambrosio, BS 2020, 'Roman numerals', *World Book Student*, World Book, Chicago, viewed 9 January 2020,<https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#/article/home/ar474040>

